

# Measles, Mumps and Rubella catch-up Service – specification for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) temporary programme

## Introduction

1. This catch-up service is directed at GP practices delivering vaccination and immunisation services in England.
2. This catch-up service is agreed between NHS Employers (on behalf of NHS England) and the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association.

## Background

3. Outbreaks of measles in England have been increasing in the last two years with an annual total of 1,920 confirmed cases in 2012, the highest annual figure since 1994. This year, 587 cases have been confirmed to date in England. Cases have been spread across England, with the highest numbers in the North West and North East. The key difference in the pattern of infection in 2013 is a high rate of cases in teenagers, which we have not experienced in previous years. Secondary schools provide an opportunity for rapid spread of infection, as has happened in Swansea. This age group is the most likely to have been affected by the adverse publicity about the MMR vaccine between 1998 and 2003.
4. The Chief Medical Officer, on the advice of Public Health England, has asked that a temporary programme of measles mumps and rubella vaccination be urgently put in place to respond to the outbreak of infection.

## Aims

5. The aim of this catch-up service is to support NHS England area teams in quickly establishing MMR vaccination services with GP practices in order to prevent cases of the disease and deaths as a result of children and young adults being unprotected.
6. It is envisaged uptake levels will be high as a result of the national campaign in response to recent outbreaks across England and Wales
7. It is anticipated that all qualifying children will have received vaccination by 1 September 2013.

## Duration

8. This catch-up service applies from 1 May 2013 until 31 March 2014.

## Service specification

9. GMS contractors providing this service will:

- i. **Identify qualifying at risk children aged 10-16 and proactively contact them to offer MMR vaccination.**
  - Using GP registers identify children aged 10-16 years (born 1997-2003) who have not received any MMR vaccination and those who have received a single dose.
  - Contact parents and/or guardians of the children identified advising them of the risks associated with being unvaccinated and offering an appointment.

**GP practices will need to decide on the best mechanisms to contact qualifying patients to maximise uptake.**

- The minimum requirement for the catch-up service is a letter to be sent to the children's parent or guardian.
- ii. **Provide vaccination to all unvaccinated patients aged 16 or over who present to the GP surgery requesting vaccination**
    - This is in addition to the existing requirement in relation to children aged 10-15 (see below)
  - iii. **Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the medical records of patients receiving the MMR immunisation are kept up to date with regard to the immunisation status** and, in particular, include:
    - a. any refusal of an offer of immunisation
    - b. where an offer of immunisation was accepted:
      - i. details of the consent to the immunisation (including persons that have consented on the patient's behalf and that person's relationship to the patient must also be recorded)
      - ii. the batch number, expiry date and title of the vaccine
      - iii. the date of administration
      - iv. where two vaccines are administered in close succession (for example, pertussis and influenza) , the route of administration and the injection site of each vaccine
      - v. any contra-indication to the vaccination or immunisation
      - vi. any adverse reactions to the vaccination or immunisation.
  - iv. **Ensure that all healthcare professionals who are involved in administering the vaccine have:**
    - a. referred to the clinical guidance in the Green Book, the safest way to protect individuals and communities from infectious diseases.
    - b. the necessary experience, skills and training, including training with regard to the recognition and initial treatment of anaphylaxis.
  - v. **Ensure that all vaccines ordering is conducted in line with national guidance**, including adherence to any limits on stocks to be held at any one time. This vaccine will be supplied centrally, ordered from Immsform as per other

centrally supplied vaccines.

- vi. **Ensure that all vaccines are stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions** and that all refrigerators in which vaccines are stored have a maximum/minimum thermometer and that the readings are taken and recorded from that thermometer on all working days.
- vii. **Ensure that services are accessible, appropriate and sensitive to the needs of all patients.** No eligible patient shall be excluded or experience particular difficulty in accessing and effectively using this service due to their race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and/or age.

## Pricing

10. This catch-up service is priced as follows:

- a. Identify qualifying at risk children aged 10-16 (born 1997-2003), write to parents/ guardians and offer vaccination: £1.50 per qualifying child.
- b. Provide one or two doses as required, to all unvaccinated patients aged 16 or over who present to the GP surgery requesting vaccination: £7.64 per dose.

11. Provision of vaccination to children aged 10 -15 is included in the capitation payment ('global sum') of the GP contract, assuming the practice provides additional services, so no claim for reimbursement applies. (General Medical Services Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2013 Annex B Part 2)

12. As the vaccine is centrally supplied, no claim for reimbursement of vaccines costs (personal administration fee) applies.

## Payment

To enable practices to claim reimbursement for the work they have carried out, NHS England will develop a standard claim form.

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2013**